

Message Text

SECRET

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62

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 TRSE-00 IGA-02 EB-11 SS-20 PM-07

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 IO-14 OMB-01 MC-02

DRC-01 NSC-07 /114 W

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R 210413Z MAR 74

FM AMMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2962

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CINCPAC

S E C R E T SEOUL 1826

JOINT EMBASSY/COMSUK MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KS

SUBJECT: FUNDING O&M IN REPUBLIC OF KOREA

REFS: A. SECDEF ASD/ISA(SA/DSAA) 9347/141630Z MAR 74 (NOTAL)

B. AMEMB-COMUSK 161058Z OCT 73

C. SEOUL 6967 OCT 73

D. SECDEF ASD/ISA(SA/DSAA) 6510/141910Z JAN 74

E. STATE 23464

F. JUSMAG-K MKPP 110800Z FEB 74

G. SECDEF 3727/202117Z MAR 74 (NOTAL)

1. REF A ADVISED, INTER ALIA, OF LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ANY GRANT O&M FUNDING FOR ROK IN FY 74 AND THAT NO O&M FUNDS ARE CURRENTLY PROGRAMMED FOR ROK IN FY 75. THIS WAS CONFIRMED IN REF G. REFS B AND C OUTLINE THE IMPACTS OF REDUCED FY 74 FUNDING ON THE ROK O&M SITUATION. REF D IS DEP SEC DEF CLEMENTS' LETTER TO MIN DEFENSE SUH WHICH STATES IN PART, "I AM STILL NOT IN A POSITION TO ASSURE YOU AS TO WHAT PORTION OF OUR O&M REQUIREMENTS WILL BE GRANT FUNDED IN FY 74 BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST." REF E PROVIDED FY 74 LEVEL OF \$112.3M AND AUTHORIZED CHIEF OF MISSION TO INFORM THE HOST COUNTRY OF THE TOTAL PROGRAM LEVEL FOR ROK, WHICH

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WAS DONE. REF F FORWARDED FY 74 PROGRAM (ADP) DATA FOR \$112.3M,

INCLUDING \$15M O&M SUPPORT.

2. THE STATEMENTS IN REFS A AND G THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY O&M WILL BE FUNDED IN FY 74 IS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED AND IS INCONSISTENT WITH REFS D AND E. AS AUTHORIZED BY REF E, THE ROKS WERE ADVISED EARLY IN FEBRUARY OF THE PROPOSED FY 74 \$112.3M PROGRAM LEVEL AND THE \$15M O&M. FYI, FUNDING OF 1.5 M O&M HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE AND WAS IMMEDIATELY PASSED TO ROKS FOR PRIORITY LOGISTIC ACTIONS TO ALLEVIATE THEIR MOST CRITICAL SHORT-AGES.

3. WE CONSIDER PLANNED FY 74 FUNDING VITAL IN SETTING THE STAGE FOR FY 75, IN BOTH GRANT AID AND FMS. FAILURE TO FUND THE \$15M O&M IN FY 74 WILL NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY ROK AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ABROGATION OF OUR PROMISE TO DO OUR BEST AS WILL THE CLEAR INDICATION, IN FEBRUARY, THAT THE \$15M WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AS A PART OF THE \$112.3M FY 74 LEVEL. ROKG WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO COME UP WITH FUNDS AT THIS LATE DATE IN THE BUDGET CYCLE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, FURTHER DEGRADATION OF EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY LIABLE TO ENSUE.

4. IN SUMMARY, NOT TO FUND FY 74 \$15M O&M AT THIS LATE DATE WOULD CAUSE MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH ROKG, GREATLY COMPLICATE OUR MUTUAL DISCUSSIONS ON OTHER PENDING MAP PROBLEMS, AND IMPACT ADVERSELY ON OUR EFFORTS TO GET ROK TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE LIKELY REALITIES OF FY 75 AND FUTURE GRANT AID LEVELS.

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